

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 17, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. EVANS submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of the heirs of Colonel Samuel Hammond, having had the same under consideration, submit the following report:

The petitioners are the children of Colonel Samuel Hammond, who served in the war of the revolution, in the militia service of the State of South Carolina, as captain, major, and colonel. The memorial states, in substance, that at the commencement of the war he resided in the State of Virginia, where he was actively engaged in defence of that State, and was engaged in several military expeditions and battles; that in 1779 he removed to South Carolina, and from that time to the end of the war he was almost constantly engaged in the military service. He was at the assault on Savannah, and after the surrender of Charleston, in May, 1780, he participated in nearly all the battles which were fought in the upper part of that State and in North Carolina. He was at the Cowpens, King's mountain, Guilford, the siege of Ninety-six, and the battle of Eutaw, by which the enemy were driven into Charleston and the whole interior of the State reconquered from the dominion of the English troops. That for those services, and many sacrifices of money and property, he never received any remuneration, except a pension under the act of June 7, 1832, of \$600 per annum, until his death, in 1842. The prayer of the memorial is, that the children of Colonel Hammond may be put on the same footing as the children of officers of the continental line, and paid the same amount as they would be entitled to if their father had been a colonel in the regular army.

The evidence furnished is the same as that upon which the pension of Colonel Hammond was allowed, and some historical notices of him, in books relating to the events of the revolutionary war. These furnish no evidence of any pecuniary debt due to him, or losses of property for which any indemnity was due to him from the government of the United States. But they show that he was an active and enterprising officer, and rendered very important and useful services in the memorable struggle to reconquer the State of South Carolina, which

had been almost entirely subjugated after the fall of Charleston. But these services, however great, (and your committee would not in the smallest degree detract from the merit of them,) were such as were rendered by many others, who have never received any compensation whatever, not even the pension which Colonel Hammond received for a period of ten years.

During the long continuance of the war, (a period of great suffering and privation,) with few exceptions, every patriot did his duty according to his station and ability. Congress, under a very pressing emergency, by the advice of the commander-in-chief, promised to those officers then in the service of the United States half-pay for life, on the condition of their continuing in the service to the end of the war.

The benefit of this contract has never been enlarged, except in a few extraordinary cases, and your committee are of opinion that in the present state of the treasury it would be unwise to inaugurate a new class of claimants, the extent of which can scarcely be conjectured. If the door is once opened, the applications will be by hundreds, if not thousands, who have, or at least think they have, equal merit with these petitioners. Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioners be not granted.